

PROGRESS MADE BY EDUCATORS

and, this was followed in the afternoon with a very interesting and profitable session in the Senate Chamber. In the afternoon the general conference met in the Christian Church, and the features were papers on "Lynchburg and Education," by Dr. Chandler, on "Traveling Libraries," by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McClellan, and a great paper on "Disability of the Student," by Dr. Hoek, of Columbia University.

A reception at Richmond College in the afternoon by the trustees and at night at Masonic Temple by the local Educational Association were delightful features of the great educational gathering.

TWO GENERAL MEETINGS HELD

Dr. Payne on Leadership and Librarian Spofford on "A World of Books."

The General Conference met in the afternoon at the Seventh Street Christian Church with H. A. Dobie, of Norfolk, in the chair. "Education and the Jamestown Exposition," was the first subject considered. Dr. J. A. G. Chandler being the only speaker.

Dr. Chandler spoke in opening of the immediacy of the exposition in general, and then of the historical and educational exhibits that will be made in particular. The annual meeting of the National Educational Association has secured space for special educational exhibits, so well as many leading institutions, such as Cornell, Johns Hopkins, the Chicago University, Tulane and others, and also the University of Virginia. He hoped to see the State of Virginia "beat them all" and he assured the teachers and other school people present that Virginia can do it if they will.

Dr. Payne started out with the proposition that the teacher in the schools of the State is prominently a leader. That such progress has been made along educational lines in Virginia, the doctor attributed largely to the good leadership of the teachers. That they are to lead in any progress for leadership the future leaders of our country is a thought that it is to be considered with all solemnity. The speaker deplored the fact that the South does not now furnish the leaders in national affairs that she once did.

While admitting that this is due to certain conditions over which the South has no control, he thought that general popular education is so much more general in the North and the West than in the South has something to do with it.

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The South has been out of the leadership as long as it has become the usual thing, and, therefore, in order to regain its ancient position its schools must prepare new leaders who are superior to those of any other section.

This can be done and must be done. The South has not had an equal show with other sections to take advantage of the opportunities for the display of leadership in national affairs, but it is being shown, through the schools and by the help of the army of teachers, to produce leaders who will win their way to the front in spite of the conditions that have so long held their predecessors back.

The South, he claimed, has more need just now for great leaders, for she has more problems to solve than any other part of the country.

Dr. Payne thinks the teacher who is to be the leader of the leader is worthy his, or rather her, hire, and he briefly and humorously discussed the question of the pay of teachers.

He proposed the figures to prove the assertion of Mayor McCarthy that street cleaners in the cities of Virginia are paid less than the public school teachers. He declared that he is seriously and radically wrong about Virginia's system of taxation for school purposes. Only one-third of the property in the State is taxed for school purposes. Said he, if all the property of all the State was taxed at the rate of 25 cents for the education of all the children in all the State, the fund for elementary schools would reach \$3,750,000 per year.

In conclusion, the doctor urged continued attention for popular education and better pay for the country.

Address by Dr. Spofford. Dr. Spofford was introduced by Captain John Lamb.

The address of the veteran Librarian, whose long service to Congress extends over more than a generation, was fully appreciated. "The World of Books," this theme was handled in an apt and a speaker, whose eloquence of the masterpieces of the great writers of the world was sympathetic and vivid.

The speaker referred to the library catalogue most in use, with their manifold and time-consuming annoyances of finding many card-titles, in defective light and inconsistent angles of vision. He presented the new system of the card system as the only security for perfect alphabetic sequence, but advised all librarians to add to it another catalogue made up by mounting duplicate titles on folio sheets, bound in volumes, with wide margins for additions, thus presenting all the titles of each author's work, and all works on each subject, at a glance of the eye instead of only one at a time, as in the card system.

Dr. Spofford said that "The Bible, considered merely as literature, without any regard to its distinctive character, is a nervous English, more pathetic, more subtle, more pith and power, than any other work in our language. Men forget that this Bible is not so much a book, as it is a whole library, in which more than forty different writers are found. Nearly a third of the Old Testament is poetry. Bible reading has been made unpopular by microscopic type, if portable, and by heavy bulk, if readable. The best book in the world has been for three centuries the worst made book in the world.

But now we may secure each book of the Bible separately, in large type, at six to ten cents a volume at any American Bible depository.

Educational Program To-day.

- GENERAL CONFERENCES. 8 P. M., Seventh Street Christian Church: General conference under auspices of the State Teachers' Association. Dr. George H. Denny presiding officer. 1. Annual report, President R. C. Stearnes. 2. "How Agriculture is Taught in the Public Schools," Dr. D. J. Coeby. 3. "Manual Training," Dr. W. C. A. Hammel.

- SPECIAL MEETINGS—SUPERINTENDENTS' CONFERENCE. 10 A. M., House of Delegates: 1. "In What Respects Should the School Curriculum be Modified to Meet Twentieth Century Demands?" Superintendent M. D. Hall, Superintendent H. E. Coppenhaver, Frank W. Duke. 2. "Woman's Part in Public School Education," Superintendent W. H. Davis, Superintendent J. K. Fulton, Superintendent Lee Britt, Miss Louise Griggs.

- STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE. 10 A. M., Basement Seventh Street Christian Church: 1. "To What Extent Shall Principals be Employed in Teaching?" Principal J. S. Simpson, Superintendent A. H. Hill, Principal Corinda W. Evans, Principal H. S. Williams. 2. "Uniformity in Grading," Principals W. H. Keister, Eugenia Geburn, C. P. Spencer, J. W. Miller. 3. "What Should be the Basis of Promotion from Grade to Grade?" Principals A. L. Burger, Robert Shively, William Anderson, Marnie Howison. 4. "What Provision Should be Made for Defectives?" Principal R. H. Shepp. 5. Informal discussion.

- CONFERENCE OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS. 10 A. M., Richmond High School, 805 East Marshall Street: Time of meetings and speakers will be announced later. The following subjects will be discussed: "What Direction Should the Science Course in Rural High Schools be Developed?" "How Can the Present Required Course in English Classics be Improved or Made More Suited to High School Students?" "What is the Best Progressive Course in Teaching Composition?" "The Aim and General Method in Teaching History?"

- CONFERENCE OF PRIMARY TEACHERS. 10 A. M., Central School Building: "The Place of Drawing in Primary Work," Miss M. W. Coaling, State Normal School, Farmville; Miss J. P. Swanson, Danville. "Methods of Primary Reading," Miss M. W. Halliburton, State Normal School, Farmville; Miss Elizabeth Ivy, Newport News. "The Geographical Side of Nature Study," Miss Virginia Gary, Richmond, State Normal School.

- CONFERENCE OF TEACHERS OF RURAL SCHOOLS. 10 A. M., Smithfield Business College, corner Ninth and Broad Streets: "Schoolroom Decoration," Miss Gertrude Brinkhaus, of Boston, Mass. "Methods in Primary Geography," Miss L. A. Waits, Lynchburg, Va. "The Phases of the Moon," Miss Anna Le Grande, Lynchburg, Va.

- CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS. 10 A. M., Y. M. C. A. Hall: 1. "School Taxation—(a) How Best Obtained; (b) Best Method of Apportioning Taxes; (c) Methods of Levying a Higher Rate of Taxation to be Specially Provided in Apportioning State Funds?" Mr. W. S. Opland, Mr. H. M. Houser. 2. "Value of School Improvement Leagues," Superintendent F. T. West, Dr. F. V. N. Painter.

when under the present statutes governing the action, they had not a title, not an iota of right, so to do. Therefore, I declare their whole action illegal. Their authority is not found in the Virginia Code, and exists nowhere but in their own minds.

"Every single one of the emergency certificates issued by this same board of examiners is unlawful. It is without authority, and the teacher practicing under that illegally issued certificate is teaching a county school without the proper authority to do so."

Noticing the surprise which this shot had caused in the ranks, Mr. Hall continued: "This is nothing to create so much consternation and surprise, Mr. Chairman. It is no uncertain quantity, for in a legal sense, all I ask for the examiners is the proper authority to do so."

These emergency certificates have no authority for their issuance. The board had no right to issue them; no one else had the authority to issue them. They are the outcome of an emergency on the part of the schools. So many did not pass the examinations for teachers that the schools would have been without instruction had nothing of been done. This case was urgent. So certificates were issued to some of the women not passing the examination, allowing them the privilege to teach just as any other teacher would teach. I say that the board can find no authority for its action in the statute books."

Mr. Hall contended that under the present law, the State Board of Examiners is not authorized to issue certificates to successful contestants at the examinations. The board contends that the Board of Public Instruction is the authority to issue certificates, but he said that the board can find no authority for its action in the statute books.

Resolution Adopted. State Examiner E. H. Russell, of the first circuit, and Examiner Maples, of the third, replied to Mr. Hall, contending that the examiners were fully within the law in issuing emergency certificates. A number of superintendents replied warmly to Mr. Hall's speech, and some of the speakers were sharp and pointed.

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were read by Superintendents E. O. Poole, of Augusta, E. B. McIntire, of Staunton, and John N. Seibel, of Southampton. These papers were of the same general tenor, giving the experience of the writers in the work of consolidation, and all agreed that the plan is working "to a certain" in their respective districts.

Mr. Poole said the first consolidation in his district took place six years ago, in a four-room house being built and four responsible drivers, whom we require to carry six children per day, and the enrollment is 160. There are four competent teachers in charge, and it has become a high school and is in a flourishing condition in all respects far superior to the four little schools from which it was made up. Another consolidation of three schools and one room of a third has been made, and is doing as well as the other one named. A third notable consolidation school has 200 scholars and 6 teachers. Three wagons are used to carry scholars to and from this school.

Mr. Poole says "We find the attendance is very much better at the consolidated schools than it was at the single schools, especially where the scholars are hauled to and from the school. Our wagons are large and roomy and comfortable, well curtained, and supplied with lap robes. We have careful, responsible drivers, whom we require to look after the comfort and conduct of the pupils. The parents are well pleased with the transportation method, for, as one man put it, 'I know where my boy is every minute from the time he leaves home until he gets back.'"

Mr. Poole says it costs more to haul the children to the consolidated schools, but not as much more as one would naturally think. In one case where four schools were consolidated and two wagons run in hauling the cost is \$5 more than was the expense of the four schools, "but," says the superintendent, "it is worth it to that section twice the cost under the former system."

Mr. Poole finds objection to consolidation from many patrons, but he says the advantages are so manifest this objection is rapidly dying out.

Mr. Seibel's paper and his experience in Southampton county was much the same as Mr. Poole had in Augusta. In the place of two two-roomed school houses, he now has a 100x100 building, with six first-class teachers, and the work of consolidating the twelve schools in his district into four first-class ones is rapidly going on. He, too, uses the wagon transportation.

Mr. John H. Davis, of Prince Edward county, spoke in the place of Superintendent L. D. Jones on this subject, and told of the consolidations in the Lee District of his county. Mr. Eggleston, who had been called out on this subject, said he was sure that if consolidation worked well in that (Lee) district, it would work anywhere on the earth, or at least anywhere in Virginia. He would, were he a betting man, wager something valuable that if the State Fair should next year offer a premium for the best made in the State, Lee District would certainly take off with it. The discussion took a wide range, and Mr. Eggleston was asked many questions, showing that all of the superintendents and teachers were greatly interested in the subject.

Teachers' Afternoon Session. At 3:30 P. M. the State Teachers' Association met in the basement of the Seventh Street Christian Church, according to the program announced. Professor Ormond Stone presided. The first business was a report of the committee, consisting of Messrs. J. H. Saunders, H. H. Shipp, and R. C. Stearnes, who were appointed to consider the matter of electing the membership clause of the by-laws of the association, was adopted. The committee on organization reported the following nominations: For president, F. B. Fitzpatrick, of Gate City, Va.; for secretary, J. H. Buford, of Richmond; for treasurer, N. P. Painter, of Roanoke. The following were nominated for vice-presidents: First Congressional District, James G. Nook, of Berkeley Springs; Second, H. Saunders, of Portsmouth; Third, S. T. Turner, of Richmond; Fourth, Josiah Gains, of Emporia; Fifth and Sixth, Edgar Spaulding, of Lynchburg; Seventh, Ormond Stone, of Charlottesville; Eighth, J. D. Harris, of Warrenton; Ninth, B. H. Shepp, of Big Stone Gap; Tenth, J. G. Jeter, of Covington. These were unanimously elected.

A large majority of the counties and cities reported delegates to the association, and greater interest in the work is manifested than ever before. On motion of Mr. J. H. Saunders, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That the chair appoint a committee of three to investigate the minimum salary law of the several States, and report the draft of such a law to the next meeting of the Association for presentation to the next General Assembly of Virginia. Further, that in case the association should not act before the General Assembly meets, then, on the call of the president of the association, the committee shall report to the executive committee, which shall have power to act.

The committee will be announced at the next session of the association.

PRIMARY EDUCATION. Teachers Hold Interesting Meeting at Central School. The primary teachers who are attending the Educational Convention and those interested in the work, held an interesting meeting at Central School yesterday afternoon.

Dem Good Ole Times By MRS. JAMES H. DOOLEY. "It is the story of Virginia. As a work of art, the book is perfect; as a literary effort, it is worthy of the highest commendation."—Richmond Times-Dispatch. A beautiful gift book, with 16 colored drawings by Suzanne Guthrie and 40 decorations by Cora E. Parker. Binded, \$2.00.